



H.R. 1343 – HEALTH CENTERS RENEWAL ACT OF 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1343 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Gene Green (D-TX) on March 6, 2007. The House Committee on Energy and Commerce agreed to the bill, as amended, on May 7, 2008.

H.R. 1343 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 4, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1343 reauthorizes appropriations for the community health centers program that provides medical services to medically underserved populations pursuant to the Public Health Service Act.

The bill expands current liability protections for to include volunteer doctors working at community health centers. Additionally, the bill allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to identify and recognize the needs of areas in high need when planning grants made under this legislation.

The legislation authorizes \$2.2 billion for 2008, \$2.5 billion for 2009, \$2.8 billion for 2010, \$3.1 billion for 2011, and \$3.5 billion for 2012.

Also, H.R. 1343 authorizes \$25 million for 2009-2011 to fund a demonstration project for integrated health systems to expand access to primary and preventative care for medically underserved populations. Under this project, up to thirty qualifying integrated health systems receive grants for the costs of their operations to expand access to primary and preventative services for the medically underserved.

BACKGROUND

The Health Center program is a community-based and consumer-run program that serves underserved populations in the U.S. This includes low-income individuals, the uninsured, those with limited English proficiency, migrant and seasonal farm workers, homeless individuals and families, and people living in public housing.

Health centers serve 17 million people in 6,000 communities in all fifty states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam annually. This number includes about 925,000 farm workers and nearly 940,000 homeless. Almost 40,000 health care professionals serve in these health centers daily.

[Department of Health and Human Services – The Health Center Program](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office did not have a cost estimate available for H.R. 1343 as of June 3, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.